

5 What is claimed is:

1. A method to detect early renal disease in a felid, said method comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a sample from a felid;
 - (b) contacting the sample with an antibody that has a greater avidity for feline albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample;
 - 10 (c) detecting the complex formed by the antibody and albumin; and
 - (d) determining the amount of albumin present in the sample from the amount of antibody-albumin complex detected,wherein an amount of albumin in a range of from about 10 μ g/ml to about 300 μ g/ml in the sample, when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010, is
15 indicative of early renal disease.
2. A method to identify a felid at risk for developing late-stage renal disease, said method comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a sample from a felid;
 - (b) contacting the sample with an antibody that has a greater avidity
20 for feline albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample;
 - (c) detecting the complex formed by the antibody and albumin; and
 - (d) determining the amount of albumin present in the sample from the amount of antibody-albumin complex detected,wherein an amount of albumin in a range of from about 10 μ g/ml to about 300
25 μ g/ml in the sample, when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010, indicates an animal is at risk for developing late-stage renal disease.
3. An isolated monoclonal antibody that selectively binds albumin from a felid.
4. A kit comprising:
 - 30 (a) an antibody that selectively binds to feline albumin; and
 - (b) a means for detecting the amount of albumin in a sample collected from a felid, wherein said means detects albumin in a range from about 10 μ g/ml to about 50 μ g/ml.
5. The invention of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein said antibody inhibits the
35 binding of said feline albumin by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433,

5 H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

6. The invention of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said antibody binds the same epitope of feline albumin recognized by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390,
10 H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

7. The invention of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said antibody has a greater
15 avidity for feline albumin than for albumin from other species.

8. The invention of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456,
20 H457, H458, H459 and H460.

9. The invention of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein said antibody binds feline albumin when the feline albumin is present at a concentration of from about 10 µg/ml to about 50 µg/ml.

10. The invention of Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said antibody binds feline
25 albumin when the feline albumin is present at a concentration of about 10 µg/ml.

11. A cultured cell that produces the monoclonal antibody of claim 3.

12. The invention of Claim 1, 2 or 4, wherein the amount of albumin in said sample is determined using a single step assay.

13. The invention of Claim 1, 2 or 4, wherein the amount of albumin in said
30 sample is determined using an assay selected from the group consisting of an enzyme-linked immunoassay, a fluorescence immunoassay, a chemiluminescent assay, a lateral-flow assay, a dipstick assay, an agglutination assay, a particulate-based assay, an immunoprecipitation assay, an immunodot assay, an immunoblot assay, an immunodiffusion assay, a flow-through assay, a chromatography assay, a PAGE-based
35 assay, an electronic-sensory assay and a surface plasmon resonance assay.

14. The invention of Claim 1, 2 or 4, wherein the amount of albumin in said sample is determined using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent (ELISA) assay.

- 5 15. The invention of Claim 1, 2 or 4, wherein the amount of albumin in said sample is determined using an assay that detects albumin in a range from about 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ to about 50 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010.
16. The invention of Claim 1, 2 or 4, wherein the amount of albumin in said sample is determined using an assay that detects albumin in a range from about 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
10 to about 25 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010.
17. The invention of Claim 1, 2 or 4, wherein the sample is urine.